

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 20**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-075**  
**DATE: June 30, 2005 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven on June 9 issued an emergency declaration to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, ground saturation, hail, high winds and tornadoes throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted severe thunderstorms for parts of eastern and west central North Dakota on July 1-2. These storms may produce heavy rains, large hail and damaging winds. Forecasters also issued a wind advisory for the evening of June 30. A low pressure system over far northwest Minnesota will intensify today and produce windy conditions across eastern North Dakota with gusts of up to 40 miles per hour (mph). The gusty winds will subside by early evening.

NWS forecasters anticipate recent heavy rainfall will cause Devils Lake to rise to last year's record high of 1,449.1 feet by the end of next week. The Devils Lake Basin received up to 1.25 inches during June 28-29. Recent storms traveled across the northern tier of the state, dumping heavy rainfall throughout the basin. The forecast for the weekend indicates that up to 1.5 additional inches of rain could fall this weekend in the eastern part of the state. Rainfall is forecasted through July 2 with drier weather expected for the remainder of the July Fourth holiday weekend.

**River Statements**

On June 30, the NWS issued flood warnings for the lower James River at Ludden Dam and Oakes; the Red River at Fargo, Drayton and Pembina; the Souris River at Logan, Towner, Bantry and Westhope; the Missouri River near Williston as well as the Des Lacs River, Willow Creek River and the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	19.10 feet @ 9:00 a.m. June 30	River trend is falling
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	42.53 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 30	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	35.62 feet @ 9:00 a.m. June 30	River trend is falling
Red River at Walhalla	11 feet	13.29 feet @ 9:30 a.m. June 30	Crest @ 13.9 feet on July 3
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	10.85 feet @ 9:45 a.m. June 30	Crest @ 10.85 feet on June 30
James River at Oakes	93 feet	93.03 feet @ 9:30 a.m. June 30	River trend is rising
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.28 feet @ 6:45 a.m. June 30	Crested, river trend is falling
Missouri River near Williston	20 feet	20.69 feet @ 7:15 a.m. June 30	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River at Logan	34.0 feet	31.1 feet at 2:00 p.m. June 29	Crest @ 34.1 feet on June 30
Souris River near Towner	52.0 feet	49.0 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 30	Crest forecast: 54.8 feet on July 6
Souris River near Bantry	11.0 feet	7.82 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 30	Crest forecast: 12.8 feet on July 9
Souris River near Westhope	10.0 feet	9.46 feet at 9:00 a.m. June 30	Crest forecast: 11 feet on July 7
Willow Creek near Willow City	10.0 feet	10.01 feet at 8:00 a.m. June 30	Crest @ 14.0 feet on July 6

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

### **Benson County**

The County Emergency Manager reported on June 29 excessive rainfall inundated roads. Ditches and coulees are full. In one home, a basement wall collapsed due to saturated soils. On June 29, the city of Esmond reported four inches of rainfall, while the remainder of the county averaged up to 1.5 inches of rain.

### **Bottineau County**

The County Emergency Manager has been receiving calls from residents in Lansford, Bottineau and Souris reporting flooded basements, collapsed basement walls and continuous sump pump operations. In one residence, water rose to the level of an electrical box and shorted out the sump pumps. In another home, the mold buildup is causing health concerns for a resident who was forced to leave until the moisture problems subside. Lake Metigoshe residents are beginning sandbagging operations due to the recent precipitation and inflows into the lake from Canada and the Turtle Mountains.

### **Grand Forks County**

On June 30, the Thompson City Auditor reported numerous damages to homes as a result of high water in the city. Damages consisted of flooded basements, mold buildup, walls collapsing or crumbling, and seepage.

### **Kidder County**

High winds and rain struck the southwestern portion of the city of Steele, damaging a Quonset on June 26. Trees were uprooted and twisted, causing damage to homes. The city of Steele was without power for about five hours and the city of Dawson for about eight hours. Quarter size hail was reported between Tuttle and Robinson. Minn-Kota Power sent a crew from Grand Forks to repair a power line along a county road southeast of Robinson after storm conditions toppled power lines. Rural residents east of Tappen reported two barns were destroyed. In the Lake Williams and Pettibone areas, four pivot irrigation units were destroyed, a barn was damaged, and siding and doors were ripped off houses as well as bark from trees.

### **McHenry County**

On June 30, the Emergency Manager reported up to 4.6 inches of rainfall fell during the previous night. Roads are saturated and beginning to rut due to the continued rainfall. Several residents have reported water in basements; two homeowners reported their basements had caved in. Agricultural crops are stressed.

### **Pembina County**

Over the last 24 hours, rainfall ranged from 0.75 inches in Crystal to 2.5 inches in Pembina and Drayton.

### **Ransom County**

On June 29, the Emergency Manager reported an additional two or more inches of rain has fallen since early that morning. Wet basements have been reported, and roads are becoming soft and rutted. Water is flowing over roadways in some locations. In addition, crops are being stressed and some cropland will not be planted this year because of continuous wet conditions. There are concerns of cut hay molding in the fields.

### **Ramsey County**

Heavy rainfall occurred in the Hampden area on June 29, resulting in riverines and sloughs rising and flowing over the roads. Rising waters are threatening a city lift station. Several homes have reported water in basements.

### **Rolette County**

The Rolette County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) reported up to 11.75 inches rain has fallen since June 25. The CEB surveyed the county on June 27 and found fields and all low-lying areas were flooded. Many crops have been sprayed with fungicide but the protection may not be effective due to the rainfall. The crops are lush but are turning a yellowish green color. The first cutting of alfalfa is lying in water, and some areas the

swaths are not visible. Officials for the International Peace Garden reported that the formal gardens have been flooded and washed out in places. A mobile home court in Rolla is flooded with air conditioners and propane tanks standing in water. A road by Dunseith Day School is washed out under the pavement with utility lines exposed beneath the road.

### **Sargent County**

On June 30, the Emergency Manager reported the cities of Rutland and Havana are experiencing flooding. In addition, 12 mobile homes and up to nine homes in Milnor have sustained significant damage as a result of the flooding. There have also been reports of flooded roads and sewer backup in homes.

The Sargent County USDA CEB reported the entire county received rain up to eight inches. Crops and pastures are flooded. Buildings are blown down and roads are under water. The southern half of the county received the most damage. However, with over 20 inches of rain in June, damage is considerable over the entire county. CEB members estimate the crop damage to be from 30 to 70 percent.

### **Walsh County**

The county received up to three inches of rain during the June 29 thunderstorms. Light rain continues, with additional precipitation forecasted for the next three days. Roads are saturated, dams are filling and rivers continue to rise. Agricultural land is saturated, with several areas already drowned out. A farmstead in the township of Martin has water backup and water in the basement of the house. Many houses have seepage and sump pumps are running continuously.

The Walsh USDA CEB estimates eight percent of the county are prevented planted with current crop conditions varying from good to poor. Many row crops are not maturing due to standing water. Disease is a major concern along with weed control.

### **Ward County**

On June 30, County Road 18, approximately one-half mile west of the YMCA, was closed due to flooding; floodwaters have been diverted. The County Engineer is concerned about the communities of Logan and Sawyer as the water flows to the southeast portion of the county. Lift stations in Surrey were overwhelmed by water volume, prompting officials to briefly discontinue water supply in an attempt to avoid contamination. Previously evacuated residents have returned to their homes. Shelters operations have been discontinued.

## **4. RESOURCES:**

**LOCAL:** No changes from previous reports.

**STATE:** No changes from previous reports.

**FEDERAL:** No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: On June 29, volunteers from the Minot Air Force Base, Burlington Fire Department, Minot Rural Fire Department and Burdick Job Corps assisted with filling sandbags in Ward County. The American Red Cross volunteers are providing information and taking residential damage reports. This operation will end the evening of July 1, 2005.

In Sargent County, residents have assisted with sandbagging.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. Department of Transportation has provided a 16-inch Crisafulli pump to the city of Pembina in Pembina County to assist lift station operations. County officials are receiving technical assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for dike and pump house inspections. Officials from the city of Pembina asked residents and businesses to conserve water. The Emergency Manager received information on home cleanup from the N.D. Division of Homeland Security to assist homeowners whose homes are being inundated with floodwaters. Many of these homeowners have never experienced flooding.

On June 27, the Kidder County Commission declared a disaster, and on June 24, the Three Affiliated Tribes issued an emergency declaration.

In Sargent County, local officials are assessing damages. A local pilot is assisting with a surveillance flight over the Milnor area to assess flooding. A local contractor is assisting with pumping and diking. Water levels behind a dike located on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue appear to have stabilized; officials continue to monitor conditions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security